Modern hospitals

†*317. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmnt have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for construction of hospitals equipped with the latest facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated under the scheme during the year 2002-03 and the amount actually spent?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have no general scheme to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for construction of hospitals equipped with the latest facilities. Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to provide necessary medical facilities in their States. However, on the basis of socio-economic status, regional imbalances both in provision of specialty healthcare services as well as in specialized medical education across the country, the Government has decided, in principle, to set up six super specialty hospitals on the pattern of All India Institute fo Medical Sciences, New Delhi under 'Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana' in six underserved States in the country. The Government has also decided, in principle, to upgrade/ existing institutions in certain remaining underserved States/Regions to meet their demand for super specialty health services.

Telecast of DO in border areas

*318. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to widen the reach of Doordarshan in border areas to counter the propaganda of the PoK TV.;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations from State Governments to strengthen the Doordarshan services have been considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has been assigning priority to expansion of Television coverage in border areas, under various plans formulated from time to time.

A Special Package for expansion of Doordarshan coverage in J&K was approved by the Government in 1999 and as part of the Plan, 90 Transmitter projects have been commissioned in J&K and Punjab. Presently, 281 transmitters out of a total of 1389 TV Transmitters, are functioning in the border areas of the country. For further expansion of TV coverage in border areas of the country, 33 transmitter projects are currently under implementation.

(c) and (d) Representations from various State Governments are received from time to time, which are considered during the formulation of Doordarshan's expansion plans.

Educational Programmes

*319. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN A RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to permit Cable TV operators to receive Ku-Band signals for televising-educational programmes; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed to utilize the facilities of Doordarshan for transmission of educational and